



## Saint John's Episcopal Church

October 2020

A Newsletter About Our  
Community and Ministries

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4200 S. ATLANTA PL.  
TULSA, OK 74105-4331  
918-742-7381  
WWW.SJTULSA.ORG  
FACEBOOK @SJTULSA  
INSTAGRAM @SJTULSA  
TWITTER @SJTULSA

## The Rector's Message: On the Threshold

Blaise Pascal, 17<sup>th</sup>-century French mathematician, physicist, inventor, writer and philosopher, wrote: "*Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known.*"

Often, I am able to fully embrace that philosophy. It encompasses one of the foundational concepts of the transformational presence of the Holy Trinity – the potential-based workings of the Holy Spirit.

Yet if I'm honest, there have been times when I've felt far away from whatever that *something incredible* was that was *waiting to be known*. In those times, I've felt caught in a liminal space where nothing was certain, nothing was clear, and everything that I thought was important to me seemed to be on hold. Truthfully, it's an awful feeling to have and a challenging place to be.

The word "liminal" comes from the Latin root *limen*, meaning "threshold." Liminal space is the "crossing over" space – a space where you have left something behind, yet you are not yet fully in something else. It's transition space. Saint John's Church is in such a space now. We are on the threshold of "what's next."

I admit, it is tough to feel like we are on hold. Much as you might like to move on, you realize that something is going on inside, and you can't hurry the process. It takes as long as it takes. The reality, however, is God is at work and is doing new things. God is moving us closer to His kingdom. Good things are happening at Saint John's church.

Threshold times bring us face-to-face with our inner fears about who we are, how we show up in the world, our strengths and vulnerabilities, and our successes and disappointments. It can cause us to question the very core of our beliefs, practices and identities.

Herein lies the **awesome power and gift** of liminal space. It shakes us out of our habitual lives. It draws us out of a "we have always done it that way before" attitude, out of what we have known, and does not allow us to know what is coming next. Spiritually speaking...liminal space is an invitation from God to **surrender**...to give over to something larger than self and trust that we will be held and supported with whatever we need in order to navigate uncertainty.

Transformation happens when we are not in charge and that cannot happen when we are holding on to control. This is where a new reality can be born. It's a space where we can finally let go of an approach, a way of being, a role, an identity, or a belief, so that something new is created. It is a place where we can "let go and let God." This is how God makes old things new.

In my life, I have learned that whenever I find myself in liminal space and choose to roll with it, it has become a turning point in my life. It definitely takes practice, and I won't sugarcoat it...it's not easy. It takes focus and intention. Notwithstanding, the more I trust God and let go...not fight against it...the more I step into the threshold God has placed before me, the more I know Blaise Pascal's words to be true: "*Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known!*"

Faithfully in Christ, *Fr. Sam+*

## Jim Hicks: Sr. Warden Report



Two years ago, Nancy and I had the good fortune to celebrate our 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by traveling and exploring Italy. We especially enjoyed the hilltop town of Assisi in the magnificent Umbrian region of Italy. So, I was eager to join Father Sam's book study last month of "Chasing Francis: A Pilgrim's Tale," authored by Ian Morgan Cron. The compelling tale of a pastor who has a crisis of faith and rediscovers the teachings of St. Francis of Assisi, I highly recommend the book. Below are some of my favorite passages:

*"The Bible is a great literary work of art filled with poetry, songs, stories, parables, history, apocalyptic drama and wisdom literature...architecture, painting and sculpture and music all led me into the presence of God."*

*"Francis believed...meeting Jesus in symbol-rich spaces...are vital experiences that can act as portals into the life of God."*

*"Beauty can break a heart and make it think about something more spiritual."*

*"Francis was a singer, a poet, an actor...that's why a church should care about the arts. They inspire all of us to think about the eternal."*

Saint John's magnificent hand-cast bells should be reinstalled in the tower and tolling the hours again soon. Donated a generation ago in memory of Olive and E.J. Nicklos, they've drawn worshippers, graced funerals and weddings and drawn us nearer to God over the decades.

When we hear the wonderful Schoenstein organ and the magnificent choir of Saint John's and gaze upon the beautiful stained glass windows installed in the 1960s, or admire the architecture of our building, each of us is drawn into the presence of God. *"Art or beauty is not the destination; it is the signpost pointing toward our desired destination."* In this season of pandemic and virtual worship services, I pray that each of you can continue to bask in the beauty of Saint John's Church and be drawn into a closer relationship with God.

## Rector Search Update

A total of eleven highly qualified candidates submitted resumes for the position of rector at Saint John's Episcopal Church. On September 10, the Search Committee held a Zoom conference with Canon Eric Cooter of the Oklahoma Diocese to review the search criteria and begin its work. Committee members are Jeff Baum (chairperson), Susan Walker, Kay Owens, Lise Dean, Trent Shores, Jace Pavlik and Marc McCaw. Doug Crews and Jim Hicks serve as liaisons with the Vestry. The future rector of our parish will be chosen by the Vestry from the candidates recommended by the Search Committee. Please pray for guidance and inspiration in the selection of our next church rector.

## Bill Chevallier: Treasurer's Report

This month I present the Treasurer's Report through August of 2020 and the report reflects financials that are in line with the previous months. Our total income through August of this year was approximately \$727,000 and our expenses were approximately \$784,000.

The Finance Committee and Vestry have both approved a revised budget taking into account our new media ministry (serving to date in place of in-person worship in the church). You're welcome to email me and I will forward you the revised budget ([wcc@mychev.com](mailto:wcc@mychev.com)). Based on our remaining expenses, we will need to draw funds from our endowment to supplement the operating revenue.



Briscoe Burk & Grigsby just completed their audit of our church for the previous year. We received the following evaluation: "In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the assets, liabilities and changes in net assets of St. John's Episcopal Church of Tulsa, Inc., as of December 31, 2019." It is a compliment to our staff to receive this quality opinion from our auditors. I will be happy to forward this audit to anyone upon request.

As I said in previous reports, we have had a strong commitment from so many parishioners to date. Even so, it remains incredibly important that everyone participates and continues this financial commitment through the remainder of this calendar year.



We are excited that our parish will begin in-person worship **Sunday, October 4 at 8:30 a.m.** This Holy Eucharist will be celebrated outside on the labyrinth. The entire staff of Saint John's Church is eager for us to be together again in person! Yet, we realize we must proceed slowly and as safely as we can.

Oklahoma continues to be a state with ongoing spread of the COVID-19 virus. The number of cases continues to be high and the positivity rate of those tested is well above the five percent benchmark that has been set by our Reopening Advisory Committee (to permit worship inside). This group has been meeting for months and has established comprehensive guidelines to reopen. These steps have been vetted by the Tulsa County Health Department and guide us, given that we are in the middle of a pandemic.

Meanwhile, the church staff has been working diligently to order all the supplies needed for coming together. So that all of YOU will be prepared for how worship – and preparing for worship – will be different, we share the following:

- If the weather forecast becomes inclement for a given day, the service **will be canceled** for that day. It will not be moved inside the building. Look on Facebook for possible weather cancellations.
- For now, **you will need to make a reservation** to attend outdoor worship, as we have limited seating capacity. The church office emailed instructions on how to use our reservation process the last week of September. Those who can, please use the emailed Constant Contact invitation for your reservation. Those who cannot may call the church office for assistance.
- The check-in process will take a few extra minutes, so plan to arrive for worship early. And, when in line, stay six feet from people not in your household. Park and make your way to the front of the church, close to the circle drive.
- Arriving, departing and during the Peace: there will be NO handshakes, fist bumps, elbow/arm touches, etc. **Services must remain touch-free for now.**
- Use the hand sanitizer provided upon entering the labyrinth.
- Everyone must properly wear a mask for the whole time in the service while on church property.

- **The mask must cover your mouth and nose.** Children of two years of age and older must wear a mask. We understand kids and adults alike do not enjoy this, but it is required and is how we best care for one another AND are able to be together.
- You are welcome to bring a smartphone or tablet with the *Book of Common Prayer* downloaded or accessed via an app. Service bulletins will be emailed and included in the Sunday Morning News. We will alternatively have printed copies on a table, if you would prefer a one-use hard copy.
- Follow all the instructions of your usher, who will take you to your seat. Seating will be socially distanced, so please do not move your chairs from their location.
- This will be a spoken service without music.
- During communion, the priest will bring the Holy Eucharist to you. The priest will walk in front of you and “drop” the wafer into your open/cupped hands. Once the priest has given you the wafer you may remove your mask and consume the sacrament. For everyone's safety, do not touch the priest as he/she passes.
- Before and after service, do not congregate in the parking lots. Clergy may stand outside or at a distance to greet parishioners as they leave.
- Please reserve church bathroom use for emergencies.

Before coming, consider if any of these situations apply to you or any member of your household:

- If you/someone has traveled outside the state in the past two weeks, do not attend.
- If you/someone is running a fever over 100 degrees, feeling ill, coughing or sneezing (even for allergies), do not attend.
- If you, a member of your household, or a member of your close contact circle has been tested for COVID-19, but do not have test results back, do not attend.
- Wash your hands really well before leaving for the church and try not to touch your face.

We will continue to offer our 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist, 5:30 p.m. Evensong and our daily Morning and Evening Prayer services live via Facebook at their usual times.

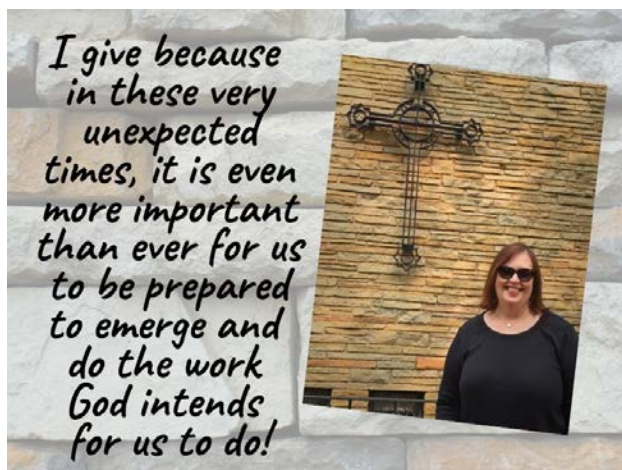
As you have likely read or heard in the Tulsa Health Department press conferences, places of worship are considered a higher risk location for visiting during the pandemic. We are being as careful as possible to prepare the building and protect you and the staff. But no amount of planning will reduce all risk. Please keep this in mind as you make personal decisions about when returning to in-person worship is right for you and your family. If you are concerned, we encourage you to stay home and join us online.



## Are You All In for our Church?

By now I hope you have received in the mail an invitation to pledge your support to Saint John's Church in 2021. Our Commitment Sunday will be held in mid-November. Between now and then we will be sharing stories from our parishioners about the ways that the work of Saint John's ministries touch and transform lives. I hope that hearing these stories will inspire you to reflect on your own love of Saint John's, and how you can sustain our ministries even more generously so that they can flourish in the year to come.

The Stewardship Committee is excited to have launched the annual season of giving with a vibrant pledge campaign icon representing this year's theme, "All In." We were delighted to work with a talented Christian design professional to create a simple but elegant campaign look. We'd like to tell you a little bit about this cross icon (FYI, not a new church logo) and what inspired it.



The arms of the cross are broad, reminiscent of the early Celtic carved crosses, with a strong center and even arms. This reminds us of our Saint John's family because we are strong together and have a solid core of faith. We are also all equal in God's eyes. The colors not only reflect the wonderful color palette found throughout our nave and chancel but also represent the blood of



Christ and the water of baptism. They reflect the Episcopal shield as well.

In the inner part of each arm you can easily see the shape of our magnificent church windows, our classic Anglican doors, and the arc of the flying buttresses that support our worship space roof (with a glimpse of the many ships referenced in the stories of the Bible). Speaking of the Bible, this stewardship artwork is also a nod to the four Gospels. Some of you may also see four chalices.

Most significantly, the cross design points or draws your attention to the center. We are all one in the body of Christ, who is at the center of everything we do. We are all one in the broader mission of the Anglican Communion to bring the Word to the world.

Closer to home, we want you to save the date for a special "drive through" Saint John's Church Commitment Sunday event on November 15. Look for more details on that in your November Evangelist and e-news.

But please don't wait until then to pledge. When you are ready, simply return your pledge card in the envelope provided, or go to our website at [sjtulsa.org](http://sjtulsa.org), click on "Giving," and then on to "Pledge Form 2021."

We invite you to join us and be ALL IN for the future of Saint John's and its ministries in 2021! – Susan Walker



### Announcing: In-Person Worship Resumes, Sundays Outside at 8:30 a.m.

We are excited to share that the church will proceed with our reopening plan for in-person worship this week! Outside weekly Sunday service at 8:30 a.m. will begin on October 4 on the labyrinth and be similar to our traditional early morning spoken liturgy.

Parishioners must make a reservation to attend. We will have limited seating to allow for social distancing. To RSVP, see the emailed invitation from the church office each week to all, and follow the instructions. You may call Diana at the church office if you cannot utilize email. If we have reached seating capacity, you can be added to the reservation list for a future week. In the event of inclement weather, service will be canceled.

Please see the "reopening update" article in this newsletter for more details you'll need to know before making a plan to attend. We will continue to offer the 10 a.m. Sunday service with music from the nave to parishioners live on Facebook.

## Music Programs in October

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

While the COVID-19 pandemic has changed everything about our daily lives, I have worked as hard as possible to make sure our music program continues. Below I have highlighted several ways ministry is happening and being reimagined these days. While it certainly will not be possible to offer Handel's *Messiah* this December, I promise you music will have a meaningful presence in our life together – be it online or in person.

**Music at Midday.** A much-loved ministry of our church, for now it has moved exclusively online. Most offerings are organ recitals, though variety will be offered this fall. Most recitals get between 500 and 1,000 views. Our most-watched recital was the program of patriotic and American music on July 4.



**Adult Choirs.** Section leaders have continued to sing for two Sunday streams: Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m. and Evensong at 5:30 p.m. I am so grateful for the commitment of these singers to both worship and precautions. I have worked to stay in touch with all our parishioners who participate in our choirs. There were regular Zoom meetings throughout the summer and these will resume in October.

**Choristers.** Our music program for children and youth has moved online for now. Whitney Hollis and I meet with the kids on Zoom on Wednesdays at 5:10 p.m. We visit, offer fun music education, and we end with a game.

**Adult Education.** During the Easter season I offered a sacred music class that drew about twenty attendees. I am currently leading a book study that is not music related and I hope to offer another music class soon.

**Evensong.** Choral Evensong continues on Sundays at 5:30 p.m. and is live-streamed on Facebook and our website: [sjtulsa.org](http://sjtulsa.org).

A special Evensong is planned for All Saints Day, November 1, which falls on a Sunday this year! A small

choir will sing festive selections as well as favorite hymns including "For All the Saints."

Thank you all for your prayers and your financial generosity during this time. By God's grace, we will move forward and thrive, whatever our circumstances!

- Joseph Arndt

## Fall Music at Midday Series

Midday recitals continue into fall at noon on Wednesdays. Join live-streamed on Facebook or catch the recording. This month we are excited to feature:

### Wednesday, October 7

Trio for violin, cello and organ, Opus 149 – Josef Rheinberger, Grace Kang Wollett, violin, Eric Smith, cello and Adam Pajan, organ.

**Wednesday, October 14,** Joseph Arndt, organ.

**Wednesday, October 21,** David Carter, clarinet, Paul Sweet, piano.

**Wednesday, October 28,** Adam Pajan, organ.

## Halloween Recital

Mark your calendar and stir up some hot cider: Joseph will present a Halloween Organ **Spooktacular** on Saturday, October 31 from 5:30-6:30 p.m., including Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor. Join us for the live-streamed evening on Facebook (if you dare...).







A new course, *Living Discipleship: Exploring the Bible*, has begun for the academic year 2020-2021. This is a journey through the scriptures from Genesis to Revelation. We look at narratives in the Bible to see the great story of God's love from the beginning of creation, through the life of Jesus, and in our own time guided by the Holy Spirit.

You may use your own Bible and read the scripture for each Sunday or you can purchase the companion book, *The Path: A Journey Through the Bible*, available from Forward Movement or from Amazon. *The Path* presents excerpts from the Bible that cover most of the "greatest hits" from the Bible story. It is intended to give you an idea of the overarching narrative, the sweeping story of God's great love for us.

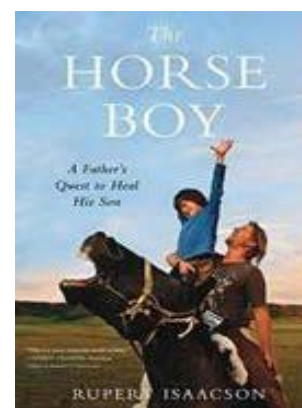
This study takes place on Sundays at 11:15 a.m. live via Zoom. Every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. we post the recording of the previous Sunday's class. We invite you to view it on Facebook at your convenience. The class is facilitated by Father Sam and Mother Susanne.

## New Book Discussion

Later this month, Father Sam will offer a book discussion featuring *The Horse Boy: A Father's Quest to Heal His Son*, written by Rupert Isaacson.

Rupert's son, Rowan, is an autistic pre-adolescent prone to tearful outbursts. The boy rarely talks to family but he seems to have a special bond with horses. Frustrated that Rowan isn't responding to traditional treatment methods, his parents take him on a journey from home in Texas to a shaman's hillside abode in Mongolia. This story depicts how Rowan responds to the shaman's unusual combination of healing ceremonies and horseback riding.

The discussion, to be held on Tuesdays at noon, will begin October 27. To register for the group, send an email to [crobohm@sjtulsa.org](mailto:crobohm@sjtulsa.org). Carreena will send you the Zoom link to the class. This book is available on Kindle and in hardcover or paperback from online outlets.



Several new communication tools and initiatives kick off or continue this month and we want you to know about them:

**Stewardship** – Look for many fun graphics, videos, testimonies and written stories to come to the parish via our printed newsletter, twice weekly e-news editions, through church social media pages, on our website, and in the Sunday announcements during morning worship time. Keep an eye on all our communication channels to catch them all between now and mid-November. You will see the smiling and familiar faces of many of your Saint John's friends.

**Vestry** – Starting in October, if you are a parishioner and can access the church website you can read the monthly minutes from the Vestry online and review the financial report on the fiscal health of the church. You will need to "register" to be able to open these parish-only updates on the website. Visit the website vestry page for instructions. Go to [sjtulsa.org](http://sjtulsa.org), select the "About Us" tab at the top, and then click on the "Our Vestry" page option.

If you are not able to go online but wish to have a copy mailed to you, please contact the church office to request this from Carreena. Please help us save paper and postage and only request this option if necessary.

**Digital Media Ministry** – Coming soon, we will share highlights of reports about Saint John's Church digital ministry and social media outreach. We look forward to spotlighting how our growing modern ministry and internet-based communications are bringing the gospels, connectedness and hope to more people. Items you might anticipate reading in future e-news editions may be: top video watched for the week on Facebook, most-liked Instagram post for the month, new cities or countries that are home to visitors of our online worship, and tips for sharing our work with others in your electronic circle of influence. Everyone in our church can be a digital evangelist!

## What It Means to Be Family

From Saint John's Church to the University of Tulsa campus, Pam and Julio Diaz have shared their talent with our community for more than two decades. We wondered how they came to be parishioners, and what motivates them to give so much time to ministry.

Q: Julio, what brought you to Saint John's? A: When we first moved to Tulsa, we moved into a house on 39<sup>th</sup> Place. We heard the church bells one morning, looked out the window and saw the steeple. We decided to investigate. We found both a pre-school for our daughter and a church we could walk to. The moment Pam heard the choir that was it! I became a choir widower.

Q: Pam, what else do you enjoy giving time to? A: After I retired from teaching chemistry at Booker T. Washington High School, I became involved in the quilt ministry and also the Altar Guild. Both Julio and I were also active with the TU campus ministry, Canterbury Club.

Q: What attracted you to the Canterbury Club? A: Julio was teaching at the university and we wanted to work to help young college students stay connected with their faith. We lose many young Episcopalians in college, and trying to establish the club was an effort to try to hold them close through their college years.

Q: Julio, you are currently a lay reader, but in the earlier years you said that it was your kids who drew you to volunteer at the church. A: Yes, I began working with the Boy Scouts and started the Venture Crew at Saint John's. At first it seemed selfish, because my children benefited. But, establishing the program and being a leader helped all the children. The girls and the boys went on a month-long trek. I even learned scuba diving!



Q: Do you have a favorite service or season in the church calendar? A: Oh yes, Sunday mass! And, I love the Easter season, the Holy Week.

Q: Pam, do you have a special place at Saint John's where you like to reflect? A: I like to visit the Resurrection Garden. We had some very good friends in the church become "parents" to us and grandparents to our children. Bill and Adele Eide became our mother and father, our extended family. Adele sang in the choir with me. They are both buried in the garden.

Q: Is there a program at the church that has been especially meaningful to you, Pam? A: The Serendipity

group! We used the nursery at Saint John's, hired babysitters, and we'd meet at each other's house for dinner and study. We became so close to many people.

Q: Julio, what is one word you think sums up Saint John's Church? A: Family. We are part of a family.

## Experiencing Something Divine



Meray Boustani met the people of Saint John's Church while singing here for a special event eight years ago. She recalls that Clark Phipps approached her a short time after, at the behest of Michael Bedford, about the opportunity to become the soprano section leader of this music program. Her first official weekend singing for our parish was Palm Sunday,

2012. Meray remembers the following week especially well. "Celebrating Easter the first time here was such a happy week," she said.

When asked about her calling to church choral music, Meray shared, "I feel that is what singing is for, it's meant to be shared. I feel music is as close as we come to experiencing something divine in communion with others."

Music and the people of Saint John's Church have also given much back to Meray and her family. "I immediately knew Saint John's was a special place with caring people, and that was never more evident than when I suffered the loss of my first child, Margot," she explained. "It was the people at Saint John's that got us through that difficult time." Joseph helped her pick the hymns for Margot's funeral. "Even today when I hear him play 'I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light,' I am both sad and joyful," she explained.

Meray grew up in Tulsa. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Tulsa and attended graduate school in Arizona. She headed to New York for a while to work before returning to her roots in 2011. She grew up Catholic. Even so, Meray noted that our liturgy was "a lot" to learn, especially that first Holy Week. Choral singing made the transition easy and helped her decide to be received in the Episcopal Church.

With her husband, Sean, the couple has a son, James, and a daughter, Michaela. "Our son was born on Phyllis Dotson's birthday!" Meray shared. "She and George have always been wonderfully supportive."

"Everyone in this church has been kind and loving," Meray added when reflecting about the parishioners of Saint John's Church. "So many people have changed my life in ways they may, or may never, know!"



## Fall FB Fun for Your Family

We encourage all our Saint John's family to grab a favorite photo of yourself, or your clan, and add this new fun "frame" created for the church's 2021 annual stewardship drive. It's easy to do and allows you to show your Facebook friends and followers that you love and support our church. Visit the church's official or group Facebook pages to get the frame and show off your Saint John's spirit!



## Youth & Family News

We miss seeing our youth and families in person and pray that you are doing well, staying safe, learning a lot and having fun! We want to remind you of our continuing online family activities: Kids Chat, Teens Talk, Family Fridays and Postcards of Praise.

Our Kids Chat and Teens Talk this month will be on October 25. We invite you to wear your favorite Halloween costume to the Zoom meeting. Let's see who has the best costume! We will also be going over scripture for Halloween and why this is an important holiday for the church, even though it may not seem like it. Please invite friends to the chat if they want to join in!

Family Friday videos continue with the adventure theme and explore the church building and interesting places we do not usually get to see. Feel free to follow them on our social media page and share them with other friends and families, even if they are not a part of a church. We may not be able to meet in person, but we can always share the gift of love and joy that comes from Jesus Christ through virtual means.

Have questions? Don't hesitate to call, text or send an email to Josh (jcorsaro@sjtulsa.org).

## For the Love of Animals



In appreciation for the many pets who bring joy and companionship to our lives, we note that Sunday, October 4, is the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi. It is a great time to express gratitude and love for pets and all creatures. Below, we're sharing a prayer of thanksgiving for pets of fin, feather and fur that you can share with your family.

Also, please consider sending Diana at the church an email with a photo of your pet (with his or her humans), and we might share it in the e-news. We were recently able to take a quick photo of Jessica and Fred Stowell, who are very appreciative of their dear cat, Oreo.

*O God, we thank you for making the animals to brighten our lives. Help us to save them from danger as Noah did. Help us to love them and care for them as St. Francis did. And when we see the animals that you have made, help us to remember that you are holy and worthy of praise. In the name of the Father (who thought up the giraffe and the zebra) and of the Son (who was named after the beautiful white lamb) and the Holy Spirit (who came to us as a dove). Amen*



Troop 153 has welcomed ten Eagle Scouts into the ranks in 2020. By the year's end we will likely have twelve! Another update: Webelos

dens throughout our district are struggling. If you know of any boys age ten years and up who you think either may not continue in their Webelos program, or who you think would make a great scout, please communicate their name to one of our troop leaders and invite them to join a troop or patrol meeting with us at Troop 153.



## Staff Spotlight: Carteena Robohm



Last month Carteena kindly took part in our staff Q&A. We know you'll enjoy getting to know her a bit better (and possibly also be very surprised in the process!).

*I understand that you and your son, Charlie, have a household of rescue canines. Tell us about your fur-family.*

Yes, my son and I do have rescue fur-babies at home. Three of the dogs – Mozart, Allegro and Fermata – came with me when I returned to Tulsa at the end of 2015 after living in California for thirty years. Then, Pepe came to us when some distant neighbors did not want him. Zeus, the Great Dane, came to us from a friend. Our home has always been filled with beloved animals.

*What is something about you that might surprise co-workers or congregants to learn?*

While living here in Tulsa, my husband and I were docents for the Tulsa Zoo. I gave Fritz a baby boa constrictor for our seventh wedding anniversary. She was born at the Tulsa Zoo. She grew to be nine and one-half feet long. Beauregard was a guest in many classrooms educating children and adults about snakes. Later, Julius Squeezer came to live with us and he was a ten and one-half foot Burmese python. Both snakes went to California with us, and continued educating children and adults about snakes. In California we always took Beauregard to church on the Sunday we would have the blessing of the animals. She would lie on the concert grand piano in the nave during the worship service awaiting her blessing.

*I understand you enjoyed a life and career in music and ministry with your husband. Tell us a little about that.*

When I married my husband in 1973 here at Saint John's Church, it was the beginning of my life in the church. Fritz was serving as an assisting priest here. In 1986 Fritz retired from the ministry, and we moved to California for his retirement.

However, the ministry never stopped. Fritz continued serving as an assisting priest. Soon after arriving, the bishop of the Diocese of El Camino Real asked if we would develop a camp program for the diocese and serve as the camp directors. And, we did. It was an accredited camp program through the American Camping Association. In California, I served as the director of music ministries in the church. I was always involved with adults, children and youth in music.

Fritz died in 2006, and I continued serving in the church in music ministries and developing outreach music ministries. I was founder and director of *Bach to the Future*, a choral music program for elementary and middle school children. The program was held each year during the Carmel Bach Festival.

*As a volunteer administrative assistant to Father Sam, how would you describe your role?*

I was honored when Father Sam asked me to serve as his administrative assistant. I, too, knew that Fritz would want me to do whatever I could to help a fellow priest. I see my service to Father Sam as one clergy family helping another clergy family. Father Sam is a man of integrity. One can see God's grace in his outpouring of love and compassion for others. It is a blessing to serve in ministry with him here at Saint John's Church.

## Fall into Flowers for Celebrations or Memorials

Beauty is a treasured part of our worship tradition at Saint John's. The Altar Fund provides a way for members and friends of the church to remember dear people in their lives, to commemorate special occasions, or to give thanks for the many blessings given to them by God. This is the fund used to purchase flowers for our altar and columbarium. It also makes possible flower arrangements sent to parishioners who are hospitalized, home-bound or residents of nursing homes.

The amenities of the church having to do with our worship are made possible by the generosity and gratitude of those who contribute to this fund. If you would like to request a special floral tribute arrangement, call or email Diana at the church office. If you would like to make a donation to the fund, simply mail a check to the office made out to Saint John's Episcopal Church and note "altar flowers" in the memo line.



## Getting to Know the Vestry



This month we continue to recognize and thank members of the parish whose lay leadership role concludes at the end of this year. John Brock has been a servant leader at Saint John's Church in many capacities, and most recently as a vestryman. We caught up with John over the phone this summer when he was spending time relaxing and hiking in Aspen, a place he fell in love with at the age of fifteen.

In 1944 this Oklahoma City native joined a friend at a family summer camp in Hillside, Colorado. College boys were off to war, so high school students had opportunities to step up stateside. He did whatever needed to be done: cutting down lodge poles to build corrals, hauling ice (cut from a frozen lake in the winter) from the icehouse up to the lodge, bussing tables, or tending to the camp horses. Hard work and an affinity for the mountains were ingrained and have remained strong guideposts through his life.

It is difficult to believe John turned 90 years old recently. The broken ankle he suffered in February didn't stop him from getting up early at his Rocky Mountain retreat to walk three miles down to the gorge and back.

John is a long-time Episcopalian. As a younger man, he lived in Jackson, Mississippi and attended Saint Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral. Through the years, he served as a lay reader at churches he attended with his beloved late wife, Donnie, and their children. The family joined Saint John's in 1968. Here, John and his wife served the church by teaching Sunday school and he stepped up two previous times as a member of our vestry. Through the decades, he has been steadfast in support of the ministries of Saint John's Church.

When asked about his dedication to the church, John noted that for him, giving is simply the right thing to do.

Like sweeping the lodge porch, tending the small herd of horses, or churning for hours to create hand-made ice-cream for campers on a Sunday in the summer of '44...you do what has to be done. So much of life has now changed for John, but doing what is necessary and right remains a guiding principle for him.

We extend our humble gratitude to John for his faithful support to the mission of our church and his gift of time and wisdom as a member of our vestry.

## Brotherhood of St. Andrew

Although we certainly miss meeting together in person on Saturday mornings and Tuesday evenings, our Brotherhood of St. Andrew Zoom-based meetings have allowed us to stay safe at home. And, this format has also given us the opportunity to experience a broader fellowship across the country.

On a recent Saturday morning, in addition to our chapter, we had one member from North Carolina, two from New Mexico, one from Dallas, and a whole chapter from a church in Round Rock, Texas. A couple of months ago a former member from our chapter joined the Saturday morning meeting from his home in Poland in the afternoon.

Digital outreach has provided us with a unique opportunity to be connected across three or more time zones for worship and fellowship. Since the pandemic began, we have met more than twenty-five Saturdays (every weekend unless there was a Saint John's service conflict).

We all look forward to being back together in person but it has also been a great experience to build relationships outside our immediate community while staying connected with each other. All men of Saint John's Church are also invited to take advantage of meeting from home. Please send your name and email address to Bob Baker ([baker111@tulsacoxmail.com](mailto:baker111@tulsacoxmail.com)) or Richard Medlock ([trmedlock@cox.net](mailto:trmedlock@cox.net)) if you are interested.







## October Birthdays

- 1 Steve Anderson, Serenity McCaw, B. J. Pohl
- 2 Greg Gray, Karen Hampton, Betty Miller
- 3 Daniel Cottrell, Karen Griffin, Leslie Lake
- 4 Robert Ellis
- 5 Will Lyons
- 6 Heather Pohl, Joan Scheurich
- 7 Peggy Davis
- 8 Janie Callahan Wilkins
- 9 Lise Dean, Tracey Eichenberger, Joanne Kirlin
- 10 Diane Bell, Rob Rainey
- 11 Claire Byrd, Larry Young
- 15 Mary Husband, Allison Latham, Connor Redinger
- 16 Claudia Powers, Tom Schooley, Karen Szabo
- 17 Jim Dean
- 18 George Nowotny
- 19 Dana Weber
- 20 Todd Bilbrey, Gloria Sicking
- 21 Lottie Smith
- 22 Adam Davies, Olivia Davies, Bret Haines
- 23 Lisa Marshall, Luke Schroedter
- 24 Debbie Viuf
- 25 Bobby Byers, Maddie Murphy
- 26 Linda Lawson, Maurine Miller
- 27 Sarah Addington, Josette Adkison, Soo Jane Ho, Kathleen Williams
- 29 Mark Byers, Hannah Ed, Stan Hicks, Lexi Lake
- 30 George Coen, Angelina Vasquez
- 31 Blake Erwin, Molly Erwin, Andrea Vasquez

**MEDICAL 'MINDERS**

PARISHIONERS IN THE HOSPITAL ARE VISITED BY THE CLERGY, AT LEAST WHEN WE ARE NOT RESTRICTED BY COVID-19 POLICIES. OVER THE SUMMER AND INTO THE FALL, OUR PRIESTS HAVE STAYED IN TOUCH VIA PHONE AND FACETIME WITH HOSPITALIZED MEMBERS (OR THEIR BEDSIDE COMPANION).

IF YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER ARE GOING TO THE HOSPITAL AND WOULD LIKE TO BE VISITED BY OUR CLERGY IN PERSON (WHEN POLICIES PERMIT), PLEASE INDICATE "SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH" AS YOUR RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION ON YOUR CHECK-IN PAPERWORK.

FOR NOW, PLEASE HELP US TO KNOW WHEN YOU, A LOVED ONE, OR A FRIEND IS HEADED TO OR IN THE HOSPITAL. CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE BY PHONE OR EMAIL. MODERN MEDICAL RULES DO NOT PERMIT US TO CONTACT HOSPITALS TO CONFIRM THIS INFORMATION.

## Tea with Grace by Betsy Hocker

Grace Randolph and I visited last month over scones with strawberry jam and clotted cream. Little did I know when I prepared the refreshments for our chat she had lived in London for three years! COVID-19 has afforded me the opportunity to try new things and to recreate cherished memories from trips. I was relieved when she approved of my efforts to serve a modified "English Tea."

Our chat touched on many subjects but the overarching themes were service and beauty. After a long career at Monte Cassino School, Grace decided to become a special education teacher in the public school system. She believed there was something she could offer vulnerable and academically at-risk children.

Grace shared that her teaching career began at a difficult time in her personal life. I was amazed by her witness of how the children she taught gave so much back. Every day she traveled between Gilcrease Middle School and McClure Elementary, from far north Tulsa to South Tulsa. She worked with children who were on the autism spectrum, those diagnosed with Asperger syndrome, some with dyslexia and also kids with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Chaotic days were filled with grace and moments of peace and thankfulness. She was blessed by the children she had initially simply hoped to serve.



Service to others is a hallmark of Grace's life, as is beauty. She is a member of two guilds at Saint John's Church – the Flower Guild and the Altar Guild. Through her work on the flowers she is able to manifest her passion for all things floral. She considers preparing the elements for Holy Communion for our community to be an honor. Grace also noted that she cherishes those quiet moments, offering her heartfelt thanks to God for her time at this church.

Attending here since 2016, Grace's work on both guilds helps to create the "beauty of holiness" in which we worship God at Saint John's. Her service is also marked by contributions to the church. She gives to honor the memory of the people she loves, especially a precious grandson who died of osteogenesis imperfecta (OI), commonly called brittle bone disease.

When asked what words she most identifies with our church, Grace shared easily they are intimacy, tradition and kindness; blessings she finds in this church home.

## This Month at Saint John's Church

October 2020 Newsletter  
Saint John's Episcopal Church  
4200 S. Atlanta Pl.  
Tulsa, OK 74105-4331

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ORGANIZATION  
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**ALL IN**  
*Saint John's Stewardship*



*I want to  
continue my  
support so  
that Saint  
John's is not  
only there for  
my family, but  
also for  
others in our  
community.*

## All Saints' Day, Sunday, Nov. 1

In keeping with traditions, we will read the names of those parishioners who have passed away since All Saints' Day in 2019. If you would like us to share the name of a beloved during this service, please call or email Diana at the church office soon.

